

Docket No.: 192506US-0 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

Tracey SLEMKER :

GROUP ART UNIT: 3738

SERIAL NO: 08/947,668 :

EXAMINER: M. MILANO

FILED: OCTOBER 09, 1997 :

FOR: VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR A  
PROSTHETIC LIMB :

RECEIVED  
FEB 14 2002  
3700 MAIL ROOM

#9  
ALNEUR  
2/15/02

considered  
gm  
4-11-02

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

(1) I am the inventor of claims 37-42 of the above identified patent application.

(2) Prior to June 20, 1995, I conceived the idea of a method for donning and doffing a prosthetic limb comprising the steps of decreasing the air pressure to draw a limb of a patient into the socket of the prosthetic limb and increasing the air pressure to a positive pressure to expel the limb from the socket as described and claimed in my application (See Enclosure 3 of Exhibit A).

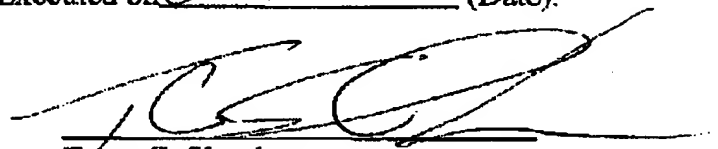
(3) Prior to June 20, 1995, my patent attorney, David A. Mancino, forwarded sketches and a description of my invention to a draftsman in order to have drawings for my patent application prepared (Exhibit A). The third full paragraph of Exhibit A includes a description of my invention, and Enclosure 3 thereof illustrates the manner in which an air suction device is used to don and doff a prosthetic limb.

(4) On August 02, 1995, Mr. Mancino faxed me a rough draft of my patent application. A cover sheet evidencing that fax is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

(5) On August 16, 1995, Mr. Mancino faxed me a second rough draft of my patent application. A cover sheet evidencing that fax is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

(6) On August 18, 1995, Mr. Mancino filed my patent application with the US Patent and Trademark Office.

(7) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 2-11-02 (Date).

  
Tracy C. Slemker

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FEB. 07 '02 (THU) 12:46  
it by: THOMPSON HINE

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## THOMPSON, HINE AND FLORY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
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DAYTON, OHIO 45401-8801

RECEIVED  
FEB 11 2002  
FAX (513) 443-6886  
WRITER'S DIRECT  
DIAL NUMBER

(513) 443-6886

Mr. Dave Kaesemeyer  
DAKATEC Patent Drafting Service  
2360 Fordyce Road  
Clarksville, Ohio 45113

Re: Modular Interface Connector for a Prosthetic Limb  
Our Ref.: 562192.001

Dear Dave:

Please begin drawings for the two inventions described below.

Referring to the enclosed sketches, the first invention is a modular interface connector for a prosthetic limb. Enclosure 1 depicts the interface connector 1 in the socket portion 3 of a prosthetic limb. The socket portion 3 is the portion of the prosthetic limb which engages the remaining limb of the patient. The interface 1 is used to both provide a smooth transition from the connector portion of the prosthetic limb to the distal portion of the patient's limb, and to provide a connection between the socket and the lower components of the prosthetic limb (i.e., the pylon and the foot). The interface connector 1 has a feathered periphery 2 that conforms to the inner surface of the socket 3 to create a smooth transition from the interface connector to the socket.

As can be seen in enclosure 2, which is a cross sectional view of the interface connector 1, a plastic plate 4 existing within the rubber interface portion 11 is used to connect the socket with the rest of the prosthetic limb. Bolts 5 are used to couple the interface connector to the socket while the plastic plate 4 has means, such as threaded holes 6, to engage the socket with the rest of the prosthetic limb components.

Enclosure 3 depicts the second invention. The rubber interface portion 11 has air holes 10 protruding through to an air chamber 7 between a metal plate 8 inserted into the rubber interface 11. An air line 9 is connected to a channel within the metal plate, where the channel is fluid communication with the air chamber via holes within the metal plate. This invention allows an air suction device, attached to the air line 9 to

EXHIBIT A

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it by: THOMPSON HINE

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**THOMPSON, HINE AND FLORY**

**Mr. Dave Kassmeyer**

**Page 2**

suction fit the patient's limb within the socket. Air may be both removed from and pumped into the socket using this invention.

I have also enclosed two preliminary models of the inventions discussed above. The first is the interface connector 1 of the first invention, and the second is the metal plate 8 which can be inserted into the rubber interface.

Please call me when you have reviewed the above description and are ready to discuss the drawings. As I mentioned in our telephone conversation Monday, I would like the drawings for the first invention to be done within two weeks. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

  
David A. Mancino

DAM/tlw  
Enclosures

DAM/tlw

Received at: 12:50PM, 2/7/2002

FEB. 07 '02 (THU) 12:49  
by: THOMPSON HINE

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ENCLOSURE #1

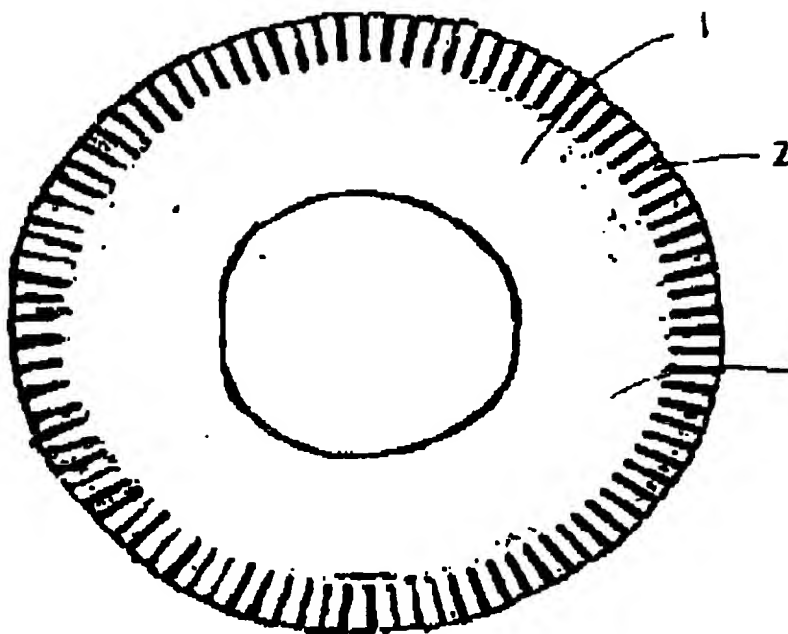
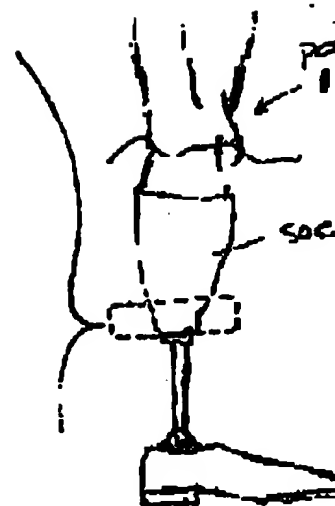
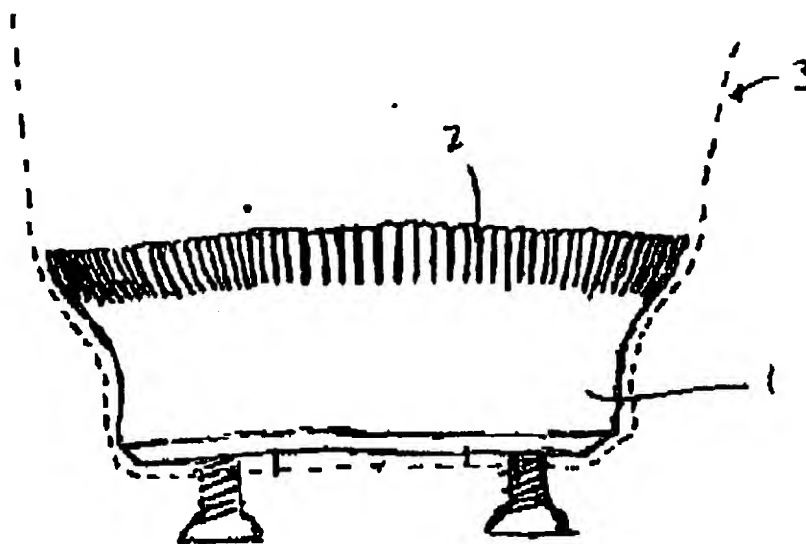
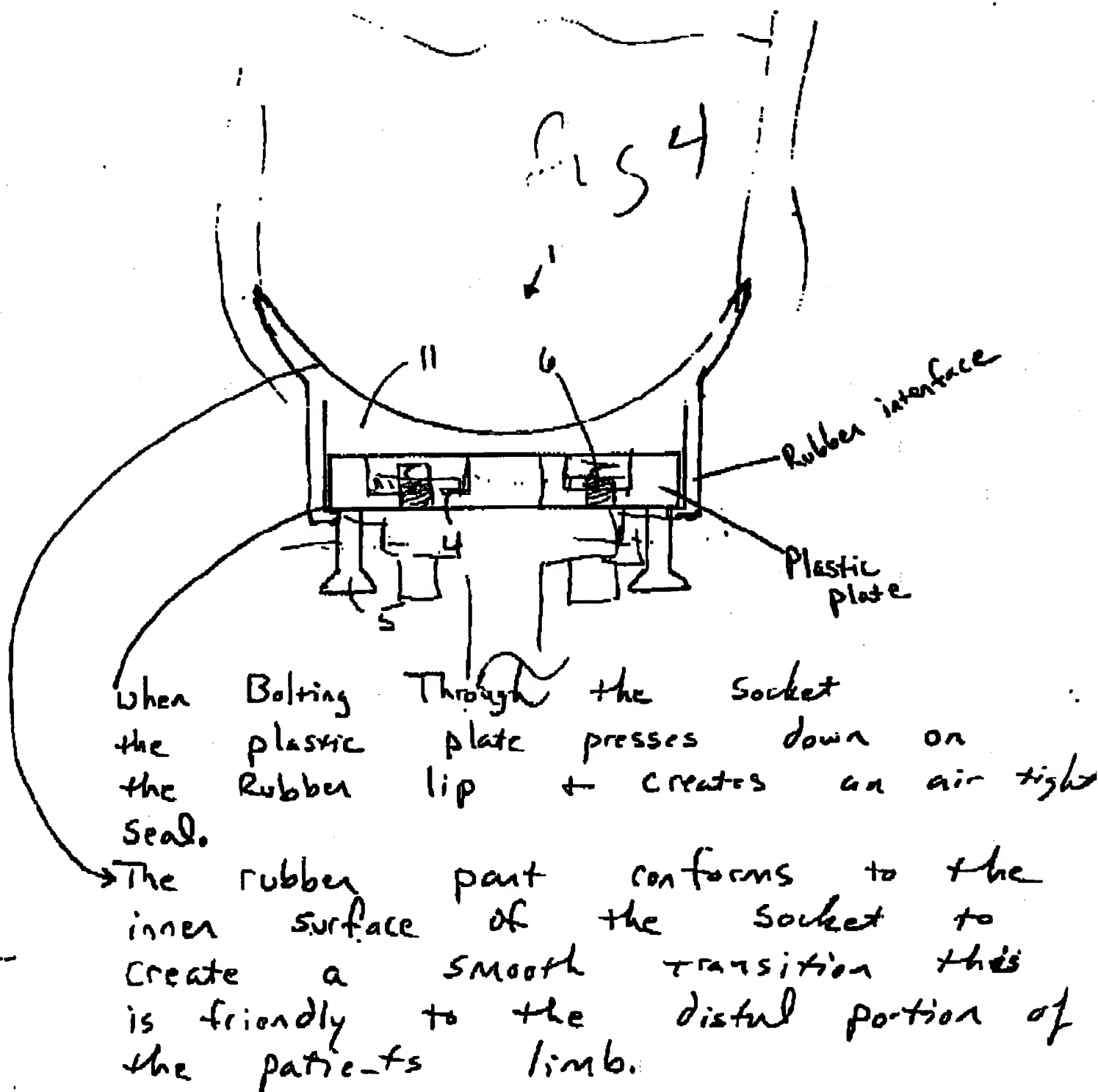


Fig 3



Enclosure #2



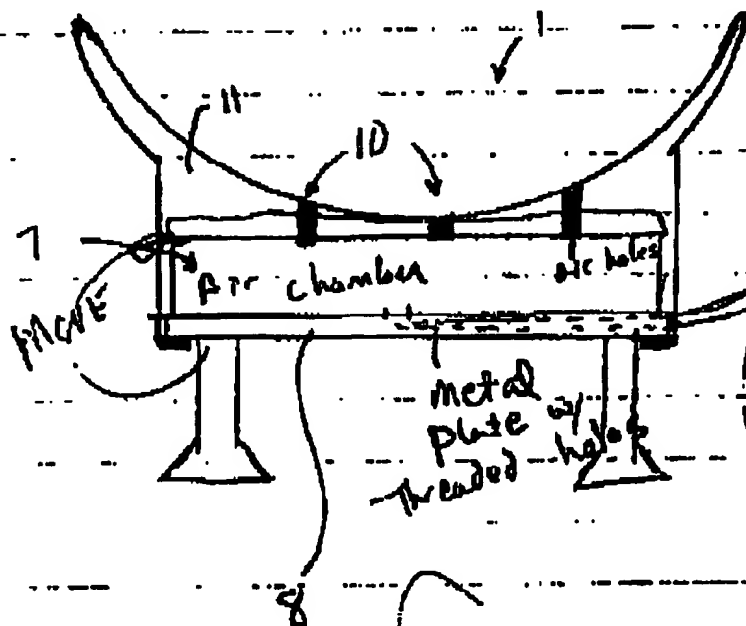
ENCLOSURE #3

Fig 1  
Fig 2

Same as other  
Same as other w/  
w/ VALUE ...

Version #3

Fig 3 - Sample of H&K Excel  
w/ Hole Car Setup



✓ Air line  
to Release air  
attach small pump  
to Remove air  
manually.

h-54

**FAX COVER LETTER**

**THOMPSON, HINE AND FLORY**  
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Tel. (513) 331-6100  
Fax (513) 443-6635 or 6637

No. of pages including  
Cover Letter 15

August 2, 1995

TO: Tracy Slemker  
Prosthetic Design, Inc.

FAX NO.: (513) 276-3211

FROM: David A. Mancino  
Tel. No. (513) 443-6888

SECRETARY: Tammy Wolfenbarger

MESSAGE: Tracy, here is a rough draft of the Valve Plate patent application. At this stage, merely read it over and provide us with comments. Note that we have left space for you to describe the valves in a little more detail. Talk to you soon.

-Dave

\*\*\* If you do not receive all pages, please notify fax operator at (513) 331-6100 as soon as possible \*\*\*. Thank you.

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Client Name M.E.D. Client No. 534128.001  
Attorney No. 1142

EXHIBIT B



nt by: THOMPSON HINE

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02/08/02 9:40; JetFax #231;Page 2/9

**FAX COVER LETTER**

**THOMPSON, HINE AND FLORY**  
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No. of pages including  
Cover Letter 19

August 16, 1995

TO: Tracy Slemker  
Prosthetic Design, Inc.

FAX NO.: (513) 276-3211

FROM: David Mancino  
Tel. No. (513) 443-6888

SECRETARY: Tammy Wolfenbarger

MESSAGE: Tracy, here is the second draft of the VALVE ASSEMBLY patent application as promised. If all is O.K. we will have the necessary papers ready for you to sign when you meet with us this Thursday at 4:30. If you wish to make any changes, feel free to call me at any time at 443-6888. See you tomorrow. -Dave

\*\*\* If you do not receive all pages, please notify fax operator at (513) 331-6100 as soon as possible \*\*\*. Thank you.

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Client Name M.E.D. Client No. 534128.001  
Attorney No. 1142

EXHIBIT C